

Message Text

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EXDIS MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GW, US, NATO, MCAP

SUBJECT: MESSAGES FOR MOD LEBER FROM SECRETARY RUMSFELD

1. SECRETARY RUMSFELD HAS ASKED THAT YOU ASSURE MOD LEBER THAT HE STRONGLY DESIRES TO CONTINUE THE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS EXISTED BETWEEN OUR DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS. THIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN AND WILL BE A CRITICAL FACTOR IN ENSURING STRONG NATO DEFENSES.

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2. LOOKING AT PRESENT NATO POLICY ISSUES, SECY RUMSFELD

FEELS THAT THERE ARE TWO MATTERS NEEDING SPECIAL EMPHASIS AND HELP FROM THE FRG IF THEY ARE TO SUCCEED: THE NORTHAG DEPLOYMENT OF A US ARMY BRIGADE AND THE NATO AWACS. YOU SHOULD DELIVER TO LEBER SECY RUMSFELD'S STRONG PERSONAL ENDORSEMENT OF USG POSITION ON THESE ISSUES. THERE FOLLOW TWO MEMORANDA ON WHICH YOU MAY DRAW FOR TALKING POINTS WITH LEBER AND THEN LEAVE WITH HIM. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT SECY RUMSFELD HAS PERSONALLY APPROVED THE MEMORANDA AND THEY ARE, IN EFFECT, MESSAGES FROM HIM TO LEBER.

3. MEMORANDUM ON NORTHAG DEPLOYMENT OF A US ARMY BRIGADE.

AS HAS BEEN DISCUSSED EXTENSIVELY, THE NORTHAG DEPLOYMENT OF A US BRIGADE WOULD BE A MAJOR STEP TOWARD REMOVING THE

SERIOUS WEAKNESS THAT HAS EXISTED IN NATO DEFENSES SINCE THE ALLIANCE WAS CREATED, THE WEAKNESS WHICH GENERAL FERBER REFERRED TO AS THE QTE LAYER CAKE UNQTE DEFENSE. THE NATO QTE LAYER CAKE UNQTE PROBLEM COULD EVENTUALLY AFFECT THE SOVIET JUDGMENT OF NATO DEFENSES AND HENCE THE ALL IMPORTANT DETERRENT VALUE OF THOSE DEFENSES. A US BRIGADE IN NORTHAG COULD HELP TO BREAK DOWN THE NATIONAL BARRIERS THAT HAVE MADE IT QUESTIONABLE WHETHER NATO ALLIES COULD EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT EACH OTHER IN COMBAT. IT COULD BE SEEN BY THE SOVIETS AS THE LEADING ELEMENT OF A US CORPS FOR REINFORCEMENT OF NORTHAG, THUS CORRECTING THE CURRENT MALDEPLOYMENT AND DOUBLY STRENGTHENING DETERRENCE.

I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE RECOMMENDED TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER THAT WE GO AHEAD WITH THE NORTHAG DEPLOYMENT USING THE UNCOMMITTED TROOP FACILITY REHABILITATION FUNDS FROM THE LAST OFFSET AGREEMENT. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THIS APPROACH OFFERS THE QUICKEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF BEGINNING THE PROJECT. BASED ON YOUR ASSURANCES THAT THE UNCOMMITTED TROOP FACILITIES REHABILITATION FUNDS WILL BE REPLACED IF USED FOR PURPOSES OF RELOCATING THE BRIGADE, I HAVE INSTRUCTED THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF TO MAKE THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS TO MOVE THE BRIGADE.

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THE TROOP FACILITIES REHABILITATION PROGRAM HAS PROVED TO BE OF ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE IN IMPROVING THE MORALE OF US TROOPS IN GERMANY AND IS POPULAR WITH OUR CONGRESS. I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT A WAY BE FOUND TO REPLACE THE FUNDS FOR THE TROOP FACILITIES PROGRAM AT THE EARLIEST DATE POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF THE TEMPORARY DIVERSION. MOREOVER, YOU WILL RECALL THAT OUR JOINT US-FRG PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES

INDICATE THAT CONSTRUCTION MAY REQUIRE AS MUCH AS \$21 MILLION BEYOND THE DM 300M REMAINING IN THE TROOP FACILITIES PROGRAM, DEPENDING ON LOCATIONS AND TIMING.

I REALIZE THAT THE NORTHAG DEPLOYMENT REQUIRES DIFFICULT FINANCIAL DECISIONS FOR YOU. BUT THE NORTHAG DEPLOYMENT WOULD RESULT IN A SIGNIFICANT STRENGTHENING OF THE ALLIANCE WHICH WOULD BE WELL WORTH THE COST.

I LOOK FORWARD TO CLOSE COORDINATION WITH YOU AND YOUR STAFF ON PLANNING FOR THE BRIGADE'S RELOCATION. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY NEED TO LEARN THAT THE ADDITIONAL MONIES NEEDED CAN BE PROVIDED AND WHEN THE FUNDS FOR TROOP FACILITIES REHABILITATION WILL BE REPLACED, TO PERMIT US TO PROCEED WITH THE RELOCATION.

4. MEMORANDUM ON NATO AWACS.

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT, DURING YOUR MEETING IN BONN, YOU INDICATED TO SECRETARY SHCLESINGER THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER WE WOULD HAVE A NATO AWACS BUT ONLY ABOUT GETTING ADDITIONAL ALLIES TO PARTICIPATE. WE ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT THE AWACS IS AN ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEFENSE OF NATO, BOTH IN TERMS OF AIR DEFENSE AND IN THE EFFECTIVE AND FLEXIBLE UTILIZATION OF ALL OF OUR AIR RESOURCES TO MEET ANY THREAT.

AS WE HAVE INDICATED IN THE AWACS HIGH LEVEL GROUP, WE NEED A COMMITMENT FROM OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES BY DECEMBER 1975 IN ORDER TO REASSURE THE CONGRESS THAT THE ALLIANCE IS INDEED INTERESTED IN THIS AIRCRAFT. CLEARLY IT IS GERMANY AND THE UK THAT MUST LEAD THE WAY IF THIS PROGRAM IS TO MOVE AHEAD.

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I UNDERSTAND THAT SECY SCHLESINGER, IN BONN, INDICATED THAT THE BRITISH HAD BEEN NONCOMMITAL. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, AT THE FOUR POWER ARMAMENT DIRECTORS MEETING HELD IN WASHINGTON, THE BRITISH STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE

COMMITMENT OF SOME 15 MILLION DOLLARS LONG LEAD TIME FUNDING THIS FALL TO COVER THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1976 BUT SAID THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO HAVE PARTICIPATION BY SOME ADDITIONAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. AT THAT POINT THE FRG REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT GERMANY COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY FUNDING FOR AWACS THIS FALL, BECAUSE THE PROGRAM HAD NOT BEEN FULLY DEFINED AND APPROVED BY THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT.

THE DIFFICULTY HERE IS CLEAR. IF A SMALL AMOUNT OF LONG LEAD MONEY IS NOT MADE AVAILABLE BY SOME ALLIES BY THIS FALL, THERE MAY BE NO PROGRAM TO APPROVE IN JUNE 1976. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VERSION OF THE APPROPRIATIONS BILL LIMITS THE FY 1976 INCREMENT FOR AWACS TO TWO AIRCRAFT. THE SENATE VERSION APPROVES SIX AIRCRAFT AS REQUESTED. THESE DIFFERENCES WILL HAVE TO BE RESOLVED IN JOINT CONFERENCE. THE LIKELIHOOD OF PARTICIPATION BY OTHER ALLIES IS HELPING US TO RESIST PRESSURES FOR REDUCTION.

I RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTY OF YOUR POSITION IN THIS MATTER, BUT I BELIEVE THAT ACQUISITION OF AWACS IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO WARRANT A REALLY STRONG PUSH BY ALL OF US.

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR LOOKING INTO THIS MATTER TO SEE IF THERE IS SOME WAY THAT THE FRG COULD COMMIT 4 TO 5

MILLION DOLLARS THIS FALL FOR THE LONG LEAD TIME ITEMS. WE SHOULD ALL TRY TO OBTAIN OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN ADDITION TO THE FRG, UK AND US.

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